

Parker River

National Wildlife Refuge

Recreational Fishing Information

The refuge offers some of the area's finest surf fishing. In season, you may catch several species including striped bass, bluefish, and flounder. A refuge permit is not required to fish in salt water during normal hours of operation (sunrise to sunset). However, any MA resident 16 years or older must have a MA Division of Marine Fisheries recreational saltwater fishing permit. Permitted anglers from NH, RI, and CT may also fish in MA waters. More is available from the MA Division of Marine Fisheries at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.

Night Fishing

Anglers must arrive at the refuge prior to legal sunset. Walk-on angler access is allowed with a refuge permit. The cost is \$10 in addition to the refuge entrance fee (\$5 drive-in, \$2 walk-in or a federal pass). Permits are issued from July 1 through Oct 31 and may be used when portions of the beach re-open. Permits expire on Oct 31. Anyone on the refuge beach after hours must be actively fishing at all times. Camping and fires are prohibited.

Where You Can Fish

With the exception of seasonal beach closures, surf casting from the refuge's ocean beach is allowed year-round. Most of the refuge beach closes on April 1 due to the piping plover nesting season. As the birds finish their breeding season, portions of the beach are re-opened for fishing and other permitted uses. The timing of

these openings vary from year to year, so it is best to check with refuge headquarters for updates.

Nelson Island: Fishing is permitted on Sundays year-round and 7 days per week from February 16 through Sept 1. Access is by foot only and fishing is restricted to within 100 feet of the access trail. Night fishing is prohibited.

Stage Island: Fishing is permitted year-round, by foot access only. Access to and from Stage Island is by way of the Stage Island Trail (across from lot 6) or by walking the shoreline from Sandy Point State Reservation. All anglers must remain along the shore. Night fishing is prohibited.

Other Fishing Opportunities

Let's Go Outside is a free public event held every June that includes a surf fishing education station. Check the refuge website for this year's date.

Sandy Point State Reservation and the north end of Plum Island are open year-round for fishing.

Additional Regulations

- All fires, including propane grills, are prohibited.
- Only park in open lots.
- Rods/lines must remain within 20 feet of the water to avoid conflicts with other beach users.
- All trash, including fishing line and hooks, must be removed

from the refuge and properly disposed of.

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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